

Message Text

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13-12

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TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, MY

SUBJ: MALAYSIAN VIEWS ON AND DELEGATION TO 21ST SESSION OF
INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL - LONDON, MAR 8-12

REFS: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 772, (B) LONDON 2394

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS VARIOUS SUBSTANTIVE POINTS OF
INTEREST TO THE GOM RE THE UPCOMING ITC COUNCIL SESSION AND
NAMES THE MALAYSIAN DEL. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN UNCLAS. DEPUTY MINISTER PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

LEONG KHEE SEONG ON MAR 1 ISSUED STATEMENT ON UPCOMING
SESSION OF ITC WHICH:

A) CHARACTERIZE SESSION AS VERY IMPORTANT SINCE
COUNCIL WILL REVIEW FLOOR AND CEILING PRICES AND
EXPORT CONTROL MEASURES AS WELL AS UNDERTAKE PREPARATORY
WORK FOR 5TH ITA;

B) NOTED ASEAN DECISION TO NOMINATE PETER LAI (REFTELS)
TO BE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF ITC UNDER 5TH ITA;

C) NOTED SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF OTHER COMMODITY
PRODUCING COUNTRIES WHICH WILL PERMIT MALAYSIA TO
CONTRIBUTE TO "FAIRER AND MORE JUST ECONOMIC ORDER"

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IN WHICH INTERESTS OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS CAN BE

RECONCILED FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT, WITH COOPERATION OF CONSUMING COUNTRIES;
D) REPORTED THAT DURING 1975, 152 TIN MINES HAD CLOSED AND 4,300 MINE WORKERS HAD BECOME UNEMPLOYED;
E) STATED THAT INVESTIGATION OF "UNOFFICIAL 'BURMESE' IMPORTS" OF TIN ORE HAD EFFECT OF REDUCING ORE COMING ON MARKET BY 50 TONS OF METAL A DAY, NOTED EMERGENCE OF US BUYING INTEREST IN STRAITS TIN AND REDUCTION IN VOLUME OF CHINESE TIN EXPORTS DURING RECENT MONTHS;
F) NOTED THAT TIN PRICES COULD GO HIGHER IF GSA HAD NOT DISPOSED OF 734 TONS DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS FEB;
G) VIEWED 1976 TIN MARKET PROPECTS AS BRIGHT WHICH WOULD ENABLE BUFFER STOCK MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF EXISTING SIZABLE STOCKPILE IN MANNER THAT HEALTHY TIN SITUATION CAN BE RESTORED;
H) LISTED WAYS TO MAKE ITC MORE EFF IN OVER-COMING PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRY, INCLUDING INCREASE OF LOW INVENTORIES BY CONSUMING COUNTRIES AND THEIR GIVING PRIORITY TO BUYING TIN FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES OF ITC, MORE EFF EXPORT CONTROLS BY PRODUCERS, AND REPRESENTATIONS TO US AND CHINA THAT GSA DISPOSAL AND TIN EXPORT FROM CHINA SHOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT TIN MARKET, ESPECIALLY DURING CONTROL PERIOD.

2. MALAYSIAN DEL TO SESSION IS AS FOLLOWS:

A) ABDUL FATAH BIN ZAKARIA, TRADE COMMISSIONER OF MALAYSIA IN U.K. (LEADER);
B) MOHD. SALLEH BIN MAJID, THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES (DELEGATE);
C) AHMAD ZUBEIR BIN HJ. NOORDIN, OFFICIAL FROM THE MINISTRY OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (DELEGATE);
D) LEOW YAN SIP, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PERAK CHINESE MINING ASSOCIATION (ADVISOR);
E) D. H. DAVIDSON, THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATES OF MALAYA CHAMBER OF MINES (ADVISOR).
END UNCLAS.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. IN DISCUSSION MAR 2, DEPSEC GEN PRIMARY INDUSTRIES WONG INFORMED EMBASSY TAHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRC TIN EXPORTS HAD DECLINED NOTABLY IN FORTH QUARTER 1975 SO THAT TOTAL FOR YEAR DID NOT REACH 15,000 TONS AS EARLIER EXPECTED. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, WONG STATED THIS INFO OBTAINED FROM ITC. REPORT OF DECLINE CONSISTENT WITH COMMENT BY DEP. MINISTER PRIMARY INDUSTRIES TO ECON COUNSELOR ON FEB 25 THAT CHINA NATIONAL METALS AND MINERALS IMPORT-EXPORT CORPORATION REP HAD INFORMED PRIMARY INDUSTRIES THAT PRC REDUCING ITS TIN EXPORTS. RE REFERENCE

TO GSA DISPOSALS, WONG ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TIN PRICES HAD
RISEN AND WERE NOW IN ITA INSPOSAL BAND. END LIMITED
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UNDERHILL

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